

**HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
June 16, 2015**

**Budget Committee Members Present**

Eileen Latimer, Chairman  
Brian Lapham, Vice-Chairman  
Phil Bean, Board of Selectman Representative  
Jerry Znoj, School Board Representative SAU 90  
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative  
David Wood  
James O'Loughlin  
Michael Plouffe  
Nicholas Bridle  
Glenn Farrell  
Timothy Citizen Jones  
Sunny Kravitz  
Scott Blair  
Michael Pierce

**Absent**

Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative  
Stephen LaBranche

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Committee members made self-introductions.

**Correspondence**

Chairman Latimer reviewed correspondence.  
Previous inquiry to the Town Clerk regarding attrition terms subject to passage of warrant article 48 reducing the number of Bud Com Members has gone unanswered. A second request will be sent.

Correspondence sent to Attorney Gearreald requesting protocol for accessing outside counsel funds for the Bud Com has not been answered. BOS response appears to be to direct it through the BOS Chair. Selectman Representative Bean asked to clarify but gave no response. Chairman Latimer will send a second request to the BOS Chair.

Chairman Latimer clarified that legal disputes between the Budget Committee and the BOS cannot be resolved with the same counsel. This is the reason Bud Com is seeking the protocol to access outside counsel. The Chair also made clear that outside counsel was not being requested at this time only the protocol to make a request.

**Attendance**

All absences must be excused through the Chair.

**Budget Review**

Scott Blair reviewed current budget against 2014 noting an 18.3% increase in revenue against a -1.00% in expenses.

Commissioner Rage went through General Government. Insurance has gone down from what was estimated last year. However, Legal will be higher this year. The total for General Government is \$57,585 which is lower than last year (\$61,835).

Mr. Jones asked why the playground is not a recreational function. Commissioner Rage replied that residents are happy to support the playground. Mr. Jones also said all fixtures are attached to the real estate which makes them the property of the state. Mr. Ladd called a point of order and said that is not true. Mr. Lapham said the equipment is removable and not fixed.

Chairman Latimer asked how much came out of the capital reserve fund for the playground. Mr. LaBranche said last year there was a warrant article to close the capital reserve (approx. \$4,890). It was closed out and applied to playground maintenance. The District stated that it would not double spend and it was put back for the taxpayers.

Commissioner Rage then discussed Culture & Recreation which is at \$505,752. Media has been increased due to rising costs. Entertainment is up due to rising costs and the fact that there will be extra concerts for the days when beach attendance goes down. The District also wants to up the amount of prizes for the Talent Competition. Mr. LaBranche noted that part of the increase is for the purchase of a sound system.

Fireworks expenses are up due to extra shoots and Sand Sculpture expenses have also gone up. Security is a big concern for the Sand Sculpture event. There are many shifts to assure there is no vandalism. There is also an increase for the Event Coordinator who handles a very important job. There is a small contribution to the Blue Ocean Society which is a non-profit group supplying education to children.

Commissioner Rage said there is also the usual contribution to the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Kravitz asked if these events bring more people to the beach. Commissioner Rage said they are very, very popular and attendance at the beach is increased a great deal.

Mr. Wood said he has never seen a town billed by a Chamber. Commissioner Rage said the Chamber does a great deal of work for the District. The District does not have an office and the Chamber handles everything related to this. They do mailings, answer the phone and give out information to tourists, etc.

Mr. Jones asked why concerts were up 19%. Commissioner Rage said there are more concerts, purchase of a sound system and more upscale entertainment. Mr. Jones asked about the Talent Competition being up 43%. Commissioner Buckley said they want to raise prize money to draw more and better talent.

Mr. Jones said Article III is in fact a proclamation that recreation has never been authorized in the Village District budget. Mr. Ladd said the Village District has engaged in the entertainment business since 1939. At one time it was determined the District did not have authority under Chapter 57. An amendment was added to authorize this. Also Article 52 authorizes recreational activities by the Village District. Mr. Jones said he has seen no evidence that Article 52 was adopted.

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the main motion.

**Vote:** 9 yes, 1 no (Jones), 1 abstention (Lapham). Motion passed.

Income (\$563,337) was then discussed.

Chairman Latimer asked why the checking account is so large. Mr. LaBranche explained that he signed an agreement with the Town Treasurer so that the Town does not need to go out to borrow to pay the District. The Town gives the District 30% in June, July and August, and 10% in December. Most of the District's expenses come early in the year.

Mr. LaBranche said line 3000 (Property Taxes) should be \$422,887. This is necessary because income must equal expenses. Commissioner Rage said it won't be known how much is needed for property taxes until revenue numbers are in next September.

**Moved** by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to change line 3000 to \$422,887 for a subtotal of \$563,337

**Vote:** 10 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Jones). Motion passed.

### Warrant Articles

Article II - \$1,000,000 for the purchase of four pieces of property (Clews property) for the purpose of constructing a parking lot.

**Moved** by Mr. Ladd, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move forward to the Public Hearing Article II (\$1,000,000)

Commissioner Rage said there is a lack of good parking at the beach. By having a lot on the north side of the beach a lot of businesses and their employees could be serviced. Many parking lots have disappeared when new buildings have gone up. The property price is \$960,000 with the additional monies being used to tear down existing buildings and adding crushed gravel. This purchase will be accomplished by taking out a bond and will end up paying for itself. The purpose is to provide service and not to make a lot of money.

Mr. O'Loughlin said this was a great idea. Mr. Plouffe and Mr. Ladd agreed.

Chairman Latimer said she would vote for this article. She said her problem was that she thinks this will be very successful and she would not like to see the Town or Village District getting into the real estate business sometime down the road.

Mr. Jones asked why this article is contingent on passage of Article III which is supposedly a housekeeping article. Mr. Ladd replied that this is a legal housekeeping issue. Counsel said to do it in this fashion so that there would be a record. Bond counsel, Village District counsel and the DRA said to do it this way. Mr. Jones said there is something far more significant here than a mere housekeeping article.

Mr. Pierce said this article takes a piece of property which could have condos built on it and provide ten times the property tax income for the Town. Mr. Pierce said he also did not like this being tied to Article III. There is no record of the adoption of Article 52. Mr. Lapham said he had a problem with the bonding. He said no one buys bonds at this time. Mr. Kane said bonds are being bought every day.

**Vote:** 7 yes, 4 no (Farrell, Jones, Lapham, Pierce). Motion passed.

Article IV – To see if the District will vote to accept the budget as submitted by the Budget Committee to raise and appropriate the sum of \$563,337.00 for District purposes in addition to any amounts that may be approved for special articles.

**Moved** by Mr. Ladd, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to move forward to the Public Hearing Article IV

**Vote:** 10 yes, 1 no (Jones). Motion passed.

Article V – Purchase and installation of an illuminated flagpole (\$2,000).

**Moved** by Mr. Ladd, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move forward to the Public Hearing Article V

**Vote:** 7 yes, 3 no (Farrell, Kravitz, Lapham), 1 abstention (Pierce). Motion passed.

Article VI – Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall (\$5,000).

**Moved** by Mr. Ladd, seconded by Mr. Lapham to move forward to the Public Hearing Article VI

Mr. O'Loughlin said this is a great opportunity and educational tool. Mr. Plouffe and Mr. Jones did not support the article. Mr. LaBranche said this is unlike other things done at the beach and he would now support it. Chairman Latimer spoke in favor of the article.

**Vote:** 6 yes, 4 no (Farrell, Jones, Pierce, Plouffe), 1 abstention (Wood). Motion passed.

## **Public Hearing**

Chairman Latimer called the Public Hearing to order at 9:10 p.m.

There was no public comment.

The Public Hearing was closed at 9:11 p.m.

The Regular Meeting continued at 9:11 p.m.

Mr. Jones said he wished the Minutes to state he was denied the right to speak during the Public Hearing.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of January 8, 2015 will be addressed at the next meeting.

**Moved** by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. O'Loughlin, to approve the Minutes of January 20, 2015

**Vote:** 10 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Farrell). Motion passed.

**Moved** by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to approve the Minutes of January 31, 2015

**Vote:** 8 yes, 0 no, 3 abstentions (Farrell, O'Loughlin, Wood). Motion passed.

**Moved** by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to approve the Minutes of January 14, 2015

**Vote:** 10 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Wood). Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer discussed a request under RSA 91-A from Selectman Waddell via email. She said she did respond to Selectman Waddell, but not by email. If she had it would have qualified as a meeting. Chairman Latimer then warned the Committee not to send her an email if you want a response because that would create a meeting. Chairman Latimer said she wanted to make it clear that no meetings of the Budget Committee were held outside of regular meetings.

**Moved** by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to move into non-public session per RSA91-A:3(a) at 9:38 p.m.

**Vote:** 11 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary

